

Message Text

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46

ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 SSO-00 PM-03 SP-02

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O 081522Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9491

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR IMMEDIATE

USDOCOSOUTH IMMEDIATE

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN IMMEDIATE

CINCUSNAVEUR IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 5095

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI EAIR GR TU

SUBJ: TURKISH AIR EXERCISES OVER AEGEAN - RENEWED GREEK
CLAIM OF VIOLATION OF ITS AIR SPACE

REF ATHENS 4966

1. AT THE OUTSET OF MY PRIVATE MEETING TODAY WITH FOREIGN
MINISTER BITSIOS ON SEVERAL OTHER SUBJECTS (SEPTELS), HE
SAID HE WAS VERY SORRY TO HAVE TO TELL ME THAT TURKISH
MILITARY AIRCRAFT HAD ONCE AGAIN VIOLATED GREEK AIR SPACE
IN THE AEGEAN. HE SAID THAT DEFENSE MINISTER AVEROFF HAD
CALLED HIM THIS MORNING TO SAY THAT THREE TURKISH MILITARY
AIRCRAFT HAD FLOWN OVER THE ISLAND OF KHIOS DURING THE
COURSE OF THEIR AEGEAN AIR EXERCISES YESTERDAY. BITSIOS SAID
HE AND AVEROFF WERE ESPECIALLY CHAGRINED BY THIS
DEVELOPMENT BECAUSE THEY BOTH HAD FELT THAT THEY HAD REACHED
AN AMICABLE UNDERSTANDING WITH THE TURKISH AUTHORITIES LAST
WEEK (REFTEL) CONCERNING THESE EXERCISES AND THAT BOTH
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SIDES HAD AGREED TO TAKE SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS TO AVOID ANY

INCIDENT.

2. BITSIOS SAID THAT HE HAD TELEPHONED THE GREEK CHARGE IN ANKARA AND INSTRUCTED HIM TO CONTACT GOT AUTHORITIES IMMEDIATELY CONCERNING THESE REPORTED INTRUSIONS INTO GREEK AIR SPACE. BITSIOS SAID THAT HE WAS NOT ASKING THAT THE USG DO ANYTHING ABOUT THE MATTER AT THIS TIME, BUT HE AND AVEROFF WANTED TO KEEP US FULLY AND CURRENTLY INFORMED ABOUT SUCH DEVELOPMENTS. I EXPRESSED APPRECIATION AND TOLD HIM OF OUR CONTINUED KEEN INTEREST IN AEGEAN DEVELOPMENTS AND MATTERS SUCH AS THIS AFFECTING GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS, ADDING THAT I WOULD OF COURSE REPORT IT AT ONCE TO APPROPRIATE US AUTHORITIES FOR THEIR INFORMATION. KUBISCH

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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